

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,067,297 of Beach ("Beach"). Claims 4-7 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, 14, and 19 have been amended. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of objected claim 4. Independent claims 9, 14, and 19 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. As a result, independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 19 are allowable. Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are allowable.

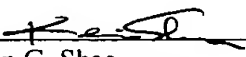
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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